

Message Text

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45

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 SS-15

OIC-02 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00 ERDA-05 FEA-01 IOE-00

ERDE-00 /120 W

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P 301700Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9707

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LIXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14172

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, AORG, OCON

SUBJ: THE PLO IN THE IAEA

REF: STATE 212234

BARRING AN UNFORSEEN SHIFT IN CIRCUMSTANCES, ITALY WILL JOIN
OTHER EC MEMBERS IN ABSTAINING FROM IRAQI INITIATIVE TO BRING
PLO INTO IAEA AS OBSERVER. MFA OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD EMBOFF:

A) NO EC MEMBER WANTS TO SEE PLO GIVEN OBSERVER STATUS

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BUT THAT, UNLESS EC REACHES CONSENSUS (WHICH SEEMS NEAR)

ON ABSTENTION, "AT LEAST THREE" MEMBERS WOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO VOTE FOR SUCH STATUS FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL REASONS. ITALIAN OBJECTIVE THEREFORE HAS BEEN TO PUSH FOR SUCH A CONSENSUS.

B) SOME EC MEMBERS (JUST WHICH, UNSPECIFIED) ARE PUZZLED BY USG STRONG STAND, ALTHOUGH "IT IS NOT UNEXPECTED". PLO HAS RECENTLY LOST A LOT OF STEAM, PRESTIGE AND MILITARY POWER IN LEBANON. WERE USG AND OTHERS NOT TO RAISE A FULL, PLO COULD DRIFT INTO IAEA OBSERVER STATUS AS ROUTINE MATTER, WITH NO PARTICULAR KUDOS ATTACHED. IF, HOWEVER, USG MAKES A FIGHT OF IT AND FAILS TO WIN BY A SUBSTANTIAL MARGIN, WE WILL HAVE GIVEN PLO (OR AT LEAST ARAFAT FACTION) A MUCH-NEEDED "BREATH OF OXYGEN" AND AGAIN HAVE POINTED IT UP AS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH. COMMENT: ITALIANS THUS RATIONALIZE THE "POLITICIZATION" ARGUMENT; THE RULES OF PROCEDURE QUESTION THEY CONSIDER NOT WORTH ARGUING. BEAUDRY

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